

REMARKS

The drawings have been objected to by the Examiner under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a). The Examiner states that every feature of the invention specified in the claims must be shown in the drawings. Thus, the Examiner has objected to the expressions "heat exchange device", "adjustment device", and "staggered configuration" which are elements recited in the claims. In connection with this objection, Applicants' attorney has not yet received instructions from the Applicant as to how to modify the drawings to show the specific elements referred to by the Examiner. However, supplemental to the present Request for Reconsideration, Applicants will file proposed corrections to the drawings in order to satisfy the Examiner's requirement.

The Disclosure has been objected to as containing the informalities noted in paragraph 2 of the Examiner's Office Action letter. As the Examiner will note, the specification has been corrected, where necessary, to eliminate these inadvertencies. Accordingly, this objection has been eliminated.

Claims 1-10 have been rejected to by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Also, claims 1-10 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In an effort to explain the questions raised by the Examiner in paragraphs 4 and 6 of the Examiner's Office Action, claim 1 is discussed hereinbelow pointing out corresponding support for the language of claim 1 in the specification of the present application. Thus, the language of claim 1 is shown in italics with the support for claim 1 and the explanation of the language of claim 1 shown in regular type.

Claim 1 states:

A printing device having a plurality of print heads for image-wise forming dots of a marking substance on an image-receiving member, comprising:

(e.g. page 12, paragraph 25)

a heat exchange device (e.g. page 14, paragraph 26) for bringing the temperature of each of said plurality of print heads to a predetermined set-point temperature value, and In the example (page 15, paragraph 28) four print heads are each heated to a same predetermined set-point temperature value of 40 Centigrade degrees, in other words $T_1, \text{ set (print head 1)} = T_2, \text{ set (print head 2)} = T_3, \text{ set} = T_4, \text{ set} = 40^{\circ}\text{C}$.

an adjustment device (e.g. page 14, paragraph 26) for adjusting the temperature of one or more of said plurality of print heads from its predetermined set-point temperature value to an associated target set-point temperature value, wherein

each of said associated target set-point temperature values is determined in relation to a target value of an output parameter of said print heads, said target value of said output parameter being determined on the basis of the respective values of said output parameter for the respective print heads, said respective values being obtained by operating each of said respective print heads to said predetermined set-point temperature value to render a predetermined test pattern.

The output parameter used in the example is OD (optical density). (Paragraph 30, page 17).

When each of the print heads is brought to its set-point temperature, with each print head a test pattern (paragraph 29, page 16) is printed and OD is measured (e.g. using a scanner) (paragraph 30, page 17), in other words:

T1, set (print head 1)	→ OD1
T2, set (print head 2)	→ OD2
T3, set	→ OD3
T4, set	→ OD4

Then the target value for OD is determined based on OD1, OD2, OD3, OD4. In the example the target (reference) value is the median value of (OD1, OD2, OD3, OD4). (Paragraph 30, page 17). Supposed this is e.g. OD3.

Then the OD differences ($\Delta OD_{1,3}$; $\Delta OD_{2,3}$; $\Delta OD_{4,3}$) with respect to the target value are calculated and converted into temperature differences ($\Delta T_{1,3}$; $\Delta T_{2,3}$; $\Delta T_{4,3}$) (paragraph 30, page 17 and Figures 3,5)

By adding these differences to the set point values, target set point values are obtained:

T1, target = T1, set + / - $\Delta T_{1,3}$
T2, target = T2, set + / - $\Delta T_{2,3}$
T3, target = T3, set
T4, target = T4, set + / - $\Delta T_{2,4}$

where said target value of said output parameter is determined such that for each of the print heads the absolute value of the difference between said associated target set-point temperature value and said predetermined set-point temperature value with which the temperature of each print head is to be adjusted is 15% of said predetermined set-point temperature value or less.

The constraint to be met with determining the target value for the output parameter OD is that:

$$\Delta T_{1,3} \leq 15\% \text{ of } T_1, \text{ set}$$

$$\Delta T_{2,3} \leq 15\% \text{ of } T_2, \text{ set}$$

$$\Delta T_{4,3} \leq 15\% \text{ of } T_4, \text{ set}$$

In the example, the constraint is met by selecting as target value for OD the median value (paragraph 30, page 17).

If this would not be the case, another target value may be determined, e.g. the average value of OD1, OD2, OD3, OD4 (page 9, paragraph 16).

Accordingly, in view of the above explanation, it is believed that the questions raised by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs, have been satisfied and thus reconsideration of the rejections and action on the merits of all of the claims is respectfully requested.

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicants hereby petition for an extension of one (1) months to May 12, 2005 in which to file a reply to the Office Action. The required fee of \$120.00 is enclosed herewith.

Application No.: 10/645,514

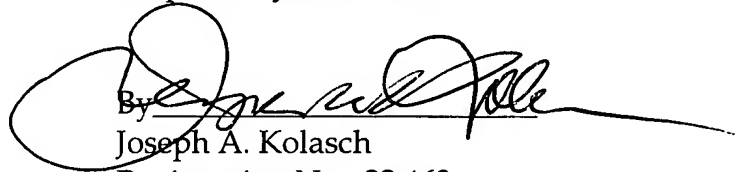
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Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact (Reg. No.) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: May 12, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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